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LETTERS AND OTHER PAPERS, 1735-1829.

(From the Collection of the Virginia Historical Society)

LETTERS FROM EDWARD ATHAWES, MERCHANT, OF LONDON(1)

To JOHN AND CHARLES CARTER.

London 12 Jan'y 1735

Sirs

I design this in answer to the letters I have rec'd from you of the 6th, 13 & 26th Aug't on the subject of y'r Nephew Mr Robt Carter's affairs. The First advising of your


drafts to Lord Fairfax for	£119.15.6
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& to Wm Prentis.....for	£31.8.3
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wch are accepted & shall be punctually paid

(1) These letters are from Edward Athawes, a London merchant prominent in the Virginia trade, to John, Charles and Landon Carter of Virginia, and are chiefly relative to the estate of their nephew Robert Carter, of "Nominy," then a minor. Robert Carter, the first, of "Nominy" was a son of Robt. Carter of "Corotoman" (from his great wealth and influence nick-named "King Carter") and died just before his father in 1731. He had married Priscilla, daughter of Col. William Churchill of Middlesex County, and left two children Robert and Elizabeth, or Betty as she is called in the letters. A few years after her husband's death Mrs. Priscilla Carter married (as his second wife) Col. John Lewis, of "Warner Hall," and the children were brought up there, though their uncles to whom these letters were written were their father's executors. As the death of Robt. Carter of "Nominy" raised certain legal obstacles to his widow and children receiving all that had been intended for him by his father Robt. Carter, or "Corotoman" an act was passed in 1734 (Hening IV, 454 &c) which among other things provided that £2500 sterling should be raised out of the estate for the widow, and £2000 sterling for the daughter, Elizabeth Carter. This, of course, was a heavy burden even on a great estate. In the admirable account of the Carter family in Glenn's *Some Colonial Mansions* (1899) by Miss Kate Mason Rowland, in which she uses many unpublished family papers, it is stated that there are in existence a number of letters, 1732-1738, from John, Charles and Landon Carter to Edward Athawes and other merchants and lawyers in London. Miss Rowland gives many interesting details and illustrates her account with portraits. Betty Carter married Francis Willis, of Gloucester, and Robert became the well-known "Councillor Carter" who has become a familiar figure through Fithian's diary.

The chief value of the letters is in their relation to the tobacco trade, which at the time was the great interest of the colony.

Y'r second letter explains to me the settlem't made of y'r Bro. Mr Robt. Carters estate by act of assembly, in trust to y'r selves to raise £2500 for Mrs Lewis, & a portion for her daughter, & that you had agreed to pay the debts of your Deccased Bro. out of y'r Father's Estate, but to charge them to y'r nephew giving him time for repaym't 'till the other sums should be raised & paid off, & as the entire profits of the Estate are to be apply'd to discharge the sums above mentioned you direct y'r Bro's Debt to Mr. Dawkins shall be charged to y'r Father's Estate, w'ch shall be done, & as I think myself obliged to you for this act of Generosity, I shall discharge the debt of gratitude whenever it is in my power,—if any bills have been drawn by you payable out of y'r fathers Estate for debts of y'r brother the accots already sent you will shew what they are, & you'll be enabled to make proper entrys of them in your own books. I shall, now I am thus instructed keep these accots of y'r nephews estate free from difficulties that sometimes arise from want of care in this respect. I have rec'd on accot of the estate 8 hhds Tobo. marked R. P. C [at the bottom of the P. is a diamond-shaped mark. The initials doubtless stood for Robert and Priscilla Carter]  the Cheap and by the Charles 42 hhds R. P. C., & 2 hhds R. J. C., in the whole 52 hhds wch shall be sold as I have opportunity; & the accots sent you.

I have examined the samples of every one of them, & therefore without troubling you with a description of the faults to be found with them w'ch must be done by the overseers as well as by me I hope what is now amiss will be amended hereafter, tis strange to me that above 100 working negroes on fine land should not raise a greater quantity of Tobo. in a year not remarkable for bad seasons or short crops, & intimates the necessity of a more industrious management to free the estate from its present incumbrances; if it be not done in the minority of the young Gentleman he will find it a very uneasy weight hereafter.

Y'r last letter of ye 26 Augt. brings an Invoice of goods to be sent for ye use of the estate was ere now ship'd in the Charles. Tho's Dove mas'r amounting to £200.17.7 & the bill of Loading & Invoice inclosed—. The young Gentleman's clothes were

made by Mr Guest, I hope no offense will be given by the lace put on them since tis done with no other intent than to please the good Lady whom you seem so willing to oblige. I shall pay Mrs Pearse for Miss Betty's clothes as soon as I know what they come to. They should have been sent with the other things but Mrs Pearse chooses to send by Capt. Whitesides. I am

Gentlemen

Yr Most humble Sev't

Edw'd Athawes

To John & Chas Carter Esqrs.

[Addressed] To John & Charles Carter Esqrs in Rappahannock River, Virginia.

TO JOHN AND LONDON CARTER.

London 22 July 1735

Gentlemen,

Having not hitherto rec'd an answer to what I wrote you about y'r Deceased Bro. Mr Robt Carter's affairs the 12th Dec'r last I must refer you to a Coppy of it herewith inclosed.

I have already sent you accots of Sales For all the Tobacco rec'd on accot of y'r nephew Mr. Robt Carter & Capt. Edwards Via Liverpoole & now inclosed is his Acct Current the ballance due From me being £214.4.11, wch I should be glad to have your directions to apply in discharge of his Fathers debt of £223.6.2 due to the estate of Mr Dawkins. I am

Gentlemen Y'r Most humble Serv't

Edw'd Athawes

To John & Landon Carter Esqrs

TO JOHN AND CHARLES CARTER.

London 8 June 1736

Gentlemen,

Inclosed I send you accts of Sales for 52 hhds Tobacco rec'd last year on acc't of Mr. Robt. Carter Jun. of Nominey, Vizt

of 8 hhds in the Cheap wch yield	£54.14.9
42 hhds in The Charles.....	£251.16.6
2 hhds in Do.....R. J. C.....	£11.8.2
	<hr/>
	317.19.5

all wch I shall be pleased to hear is to satisfaction. Many hhds of the R. P. C. Stem'd were pack'd in so ill case that they were rotten & spoil'd, not by over-prizing for they were generally lighter than they ought to be but the Tobo. appeared moist as if it had been loose in a damp Cellar & began to stink so that they were several times return'd on my hands after I had sold them, I mention this that those that have the packing of the Tobo. may be directed to do it more carefully hereafter, & they ought to be order'd to pack but one sort in a hhd, some of these were part laid streight & some bundled & some promiscious in the same cask, wch ye buyers find fault with & call false package.

You have likewise inclosed an acct. Curr't of this Estate the ballances due from me being £166.8 is at your Command. I have not further to add on this subject but to assure you of my constant endeavours for the service of the Estate & remain

Y'r Most humble Serv't

Edw'd Athawes

To the hon'ble John Carter Esqr and Charles Carter, Esqr.

London 31 Decem'r 1736

To John Charles & Landon Carter Esqrs

Sirs,

I wrote you the 20th instant on this subject of the Nominy Estate. This serves to inclose a Bill of Loading & Invoice for Goods order'd for the use of the Estate now Ship'd in the Charles Thos Dove Mas'r amo. to £137.1.6 & likewise an Invoice of Goods sent by the Burwell Consign'd to Colo John Lewis for the use of Mr Robt & Miss Betty Carter amo. to £11.3 all wch I have agreeable to y'r directions insured, and therefore in case of a miscarriage or partial Damage be pleased to certify same so as to enable me to recover payment from the Insurers The Iromonger is much concern'd as well as my self to find the

Hoes sent last year were not so good as they ought to be and assures me those now sent are the best sort & charged to 2s. per Doz. Cheapcr than usual to make some amends. I have been often considering what should occasion the ill scent & other objections made to the Tobo. from the Nominy plantation this year, & am inclined to believe it lay too long before it was packed in the hhd; at least some of it, for there is a greater difference in this Tobacco than is usual in the same Crop but I own myself too ignorant of the planters art to be at a certainty Tis however generally opined here that ye Tobo. brought by the forward ships is the best, & I suppose that is the first packed The Buyers here chose the Stem'd Tobacco that is laid streight in the hhd without being tyed in bundles, & if it can for the future be order'd this way without much trouble or expence I would persuade you to do it. I rerrain with much respects

Gentlemen Yo'r Most humble Sev't

Edwd Athawes

TO JOHN, CHARLES AND LONDON CARTER.

London 5 July 1737

Sirs

This incloses accots of sales for 59 hhds Tobacco rec'd from you last year on accot of The Nominy Estate, vizt

R. C. 45 hhds by the Charles Capt Dove wch yielded net
£361.12.6

R. C. 2.....⌘ the Rappa. Capt Wilcox wch yielded net
£11.19.6

R. 5.....⌘ the Cheap Capt Poirer wch yielded net £32.9.1

R. C. 7.....⌘ Do.....wch yielded net £46.13.6

and wch I hope will prove to your satisfaction.

You have likewise inclosed an accot Current of this Estate the ballance due from me being £39.14.6. I persuade myself will be found right but if not shall be corrected.

I have lately rec'd 15 hhds Tobo on acct of this Estate by the Carter Capt. Malbon wch I shall dispose of in the best manner I can, they have the misfortune to be much damaged now as well as last year not so much on ship board as before they were

ship'd either by rolling or in the sloop. We find by experience that those hhds which are damaged & cut[,] loose more than others by standing & especially at this time of the year when the Tobacco is sweating and the weather is very hott. I observe these Tobos have by same means or other gotten a scent wch of all others is most disliked here & called smoke dry'd, with you house burnt, whether this be from the overseers neglect or for want of room to dry the Tobo. in ye houses I dont know but I hope it will be prevented another year. I am

Gentlemen

Y'r most humble Servt

Edwd Athawes

To John, Charles & Landon Carter Esquires

[Addressed] To John, Charles & Landon Carter Esqrs
in Rappahannock River, Virginia

to the Rev'd Mr Reade

TO JOHN AND CHARLES CARTER.

London 10th March 1737-8

Sirs

Having finish'd the Sales of the Tobacco consigned me from the Nominy Estate, I now send you the accts as follow, vizt

of 15 hhd rec'd by the Carter, Capt Malbon wch yield	£94.14.2
44 hhds to the Charles Thos Teage wch yield	£334.7.6
6 hhds R. C. to Ditto wch yield	£38.2.2
20 hhds to the Burwell Capt Wast wch yield	£143.9.10
12 hhds to the Harrison Capt. Bolling wch yield	£96.6.9

£707.0.5

It will be a great pleasure to me if those sales are to your satisfaction, & as I act with a sincere to the advantage of this estate I am willing to hope my conduct will be approved.

The Tobacco recd great injury from damages in the Country by being roll'd in the wet, or by some defect in the Craft carrying it on ship board or by both, wch those employed should be reproved for. I have heretofore made complaint that the

Tobo. was not clear strip'd & that it was not handsomly pack'd in the Cask. My customers find the same fault still, & therefore I repeat it in hopes the oveerser may by your admonishon order it better for the future.

Inclosed is likewise an acct Current of this Estate from my books, sent for your observation, if you find it right please to signify it for my satisfaction I am

Gentlemen

Y'r Most humble Sev't

Edwd Athawes

To John & Charles Carter Esqrs.

TO JOHN AND CHARLES CARTER.

London 10th Jan'y 1738

Mes^{rs} John and Chas Carter

Sirs

I wrote to you the 22d past by the Maynard Capt Reynolds to which I refer you this is designed by the Charles Thomas Teague Master and covers a bill of loading and Invoice for the goods you ordered for the use of the Nominy plantation amounting to £102., which I wish safe and to your satisfaction I have insured thereon as you desired and in case of a loss or damage you will please to furnish me with necessary proofs to entitle me to satisfaction from the insurers I have sold the greatest part of the Tobacco rec'd this year on account of this Estate and when the accounts can be closed they shall be sent with Account Current as you desire.

I am much obliged to you for assisting my ship with the Freight of the Tobacco from this Estate I presume not to ask more of it than may be conveniently spared and if it is not insured the whole is too much to Venture in one bottom this ship had misfortune of very bad weather in her Passage home which occasion some damage to her Cargo the Owners make it good as far as Regulation establish'd in the Trade for this Purpose goes and I think ought to do so, tho some of our Body

have this year in same Circumstances refused it. We have repaired and Strengthened the ship in such a manner that she will be less liable to an accident of this kind hereafter and if you would be so kind to assist me in dispatching her from Virginia before the winter comes on the Owners and Freighters too would reap the benefit for it usually happens that the first Market is the best and I think will certainly be so next year I am

Sir

Copy

Your most Humble Servant
Edw. Ahawes

TO JOHN CARTER.

Honourable Sir

London 22d Decem 1738

I wrote to you the 6th Instant inclosing a Protest of Colo. John Robinson's bill on Mr. Hanbury for £105 which I sent by the Albemarle Capt Dansie. This is designed by the Maynard Capt Reynolds and covers an Invoice for the Goods for the use of Master Robert & Miss Betty Carter amounting to £21.18.9, as they are to be delivered at Colonel Lewises the Bill of Loading was sent to him, the Goods for the Plantation are now ready and will be soon ship'd in the Charles for Rappa. from whence they may be more easily conveyed to Nominy.—The Bills you advise to have drawn chargeable to the Nominy Estate Vizt.

To Mr Wm Prentiss for	£9.13.1
To Lord Fairfax	119.15.6
To Mr Wm Prentiss for	13.12.5
To Messrs Cary and Company	91.1.5 $\frac{3}{4}$

Some of these bills are paid and the others accepted and shall be duly honoured as they become due. I have already owned the Receipt of 20 hhds Tobacco per the Micajah and Philip and 32 hhds per the Charles, the greatest part of these are sold and I hope to dispose of the rest time enough to send the Accounts by some later Ship and then you will see what the Ballance remaining in my hands will be and make such Drafts the ensuing as you think proper to gratify Colo. Lewis, whatever you think proper to draw for this purpose, I will readily pay, five hundred pounds may be paid next Year if you please without

any such detriment to my self as to occasion Complaint, and if it will be any convenience to Colo Lewis to go something farther I shall be consenting if you desire it, for I am really desirous to keep you free from unreasonable importunitys & him from Complaints as far as I am able. The complaints I made of the Tobacco from this Estate was not without cause. I might Still complain but as last years Tobacco was made in an unfavourable Season it may not be so much the fault of those who ought to attend to the Management, and yet I cannot see why in any Sort of Weather Tobo. may not be Stem'd & laid streight in the hhds. I have sold 20 hhds of Wolf at 9d. of lb. to two buyers who rejected them at the Scale. I have not sold a hhd Stem'd under this price all the Year. I have sold them a third Time & next week they are to be weighed if this Buyer does not serve me as the other did. I know not what occasioned it but the Tobacco is Flabby and some of it Stinks, it Seems as if it had lain out of Doors in moist Weather and packed without being dried. I hope your reproof will have a proper effect on the overseers and next Year as they have had a kindly Season the Tobacco will come in good order and I have done with troubling you with Complaints.

I am no otherwise concerned for the Loss of the Consignments I usually had from you than as I always considered it a favor and Reputation to receive it but as the Removal is not for dislike to me but for your own Conveniency I am perfectly Satisfied and take this opportunity to pay my acknowledgements for the declarations you have made to my advantage, which I find ye Benefit of in some consignments that I could not expect from any other Cause. Mr. Chapman informs me that he is indebted to your Generosity for a Valuable place, he is one of those I have a real regard for and in Serving him you have made me Something the happier. I wish you Good Health to enjoy your own fortune and the felicity resulting from Acts of Generosity.

I am Sir Your most humble Servant

Copy

Edwd Athawes

[Addressed] To John Carter Esqr., Rappahannock River in Virginia per the Mercury Capt. Clack.

TO JOHN AND CHARLES CARTER.

London April 16, 1739

Sirs,

I take the Opportunity by the Buchanan Capt Rae to send the following Accounts of Sales of Tobo. recd on accot of the Estates of Mr Robert Carter of Nominy, Vizt

For 20 hhds per the Micajah & Philip wch yield net	£183.3.5
For 4 hhds per the Charles Thos Teage, M't. R. C	36.13.5
For 28 hhds per ditto.....R. P. C.	259.5.9

Inclosed is likewise the Accot Curr't of the Estate for your own observation the Ballance due from me being £120.9.7. This sum is at your Command and as Colo Lewis may be desirous to have some part of his Demand on the Estate discharged the Current Year I submit to your Pleasure to draw on me what you think proper to satisfy him and free yourselves from any troublesome importunities. The Benefit I receive from my Commission in Transacting the Business of the Estate I owe to your friendship and hope to preserve by a punctual discharge of my Duty and at the same time I shall readily contribute to the convenience of all concerned by advancing money as far as my abilitys go or your occasions require. I see what Weights lay on the Estate and that it will be as much or Perhaps more than all our Care and Endeavours will be able to effect if We can free it before the Young Gentleman arrives to the Possession

I observe you design hereafter to discharge Disbursements as are made in Virginia over and above what can be satisfied by Corn & by a Sale of some part of the Tobacco to ease me of the Trouble of paying the Bills you would otherwise be obliged to draw, if this Method will save you trouble or be less expensive to the Estate, it should be complied with, but as far as I am concerned I would recommend the most Provident way & if drawing bills be judged so, I shall think it no Trouble to pay them and while you persue the discreet method of advising for what services the Bills are drawn as you have hitherto done I cant conceive any mistakes can at any time be made in the Accounts or if any they will easily be cleared and corrected. There is but little Tobacco remaining unsold and yet the Price

declines which shews the Sentiments of People here with Respect to the ensuing Years Trade. I am

Gentlemen

Your most humble Sev't

Edwd Athawes

To the Hon'ble John Carter and Charles Carter Esqrs.

TO JOHN AND CHARLES CARTER.

London 18th March 1741-2

Sirs

This serves to inclose a bill of loading & an Invoice for the goods you order'd to be sent for the use of the Estate of Mr. Robt Carter of Nominy amounting to £229.5.5 now Ship'd in the Rappa. Capt. John Wilcox which I heartily wish safe & to satisfaction. As the ship goes without Convoy & is, by order of her owner to call at Madeira I have insured these goods.

Mr. Jukes of whom I bought the Iron ware has used me ill, he has the reputation for making the best hoes which was my inducem't to purchase the Ironware of him, he undertook to get the hoes ready at a time agreed on, & yet when I came to ship my goods a fortnight afterwards he sent me the rest of the Ironware & but part of the hoes when it was too late to provide them elsewhere, He promises now to send them after the ship to Gravesend, but having been already deceived in him I shall doubt of his promises, if they are not sent now they shall go by some other opportunity.

I have this day received from Mess. Goore & Buckley of Liverpool a remittance for £325.11, which I shall place to the Credit of the Nominy Estate acct on my books. I am

Gentlemen

Y'r Most Obedt Sev't

Edwd Athawes

To the Honble John Carter & Charles Carter Esqrs.

ORDER FROM COL. PETER JEFFERSON.*⁽²⁾

Copy of an order from Colonel Peter Jefferson, County-Lieutenant of Albemarle county, to Captain Charles Ellis.

Albemarle County to wit.

The are in his Majestys name to Require & Command and you to apprehend the Able Bodied Single men of your Company whose names are hereunto subjoined they being deemed Soldiers duly enlisted in his Majestys Service by their failing to appear

(2) The name Jefferson appears occasionally in Virginia records from a very early date; but the first certain ancestor of the President was Thomas Jefferson who was living in Henrico County at the time the extant records begin, 1677. The family while resident in Henrico was not of the wealthiest planter class; but every reference to them in the records shows that they were people of respectable standing and comfortable estate. One of the earliest mentions of the name is in the will of Christopher Branch, of Kingsland, dated June 20, 1678 and proved Feb. 20, 1681-2, who makes a bequest to his granddaughter Martha, wife of Thomas Jefferson, and appoints Jefferson one of his executors. Other records in Henrico show that Martha Jefferson, was daughter of William Branch and his wife Jane, who married secondly Abel Gower. Thomas Jefferson the first died in 1697 and on Dec. 7th, of that year his will was probated on petition of his widow Mary (an error of the clerk for Martha). On Oct. 1st, 1698, an inventory and appraisement of the personal estate (amounting to £97.16.6½). This is expressly stated not to include the negroes. By order of court the personal estate was divided between the widow and the two children, Thomas and Martha. The inventory has been printed in this Magazine I, 208-212.

Thomas Jefferson, the second, appears frequently in the records of his county in connection with various business transactions and once as the winner, with his mare Bony, of a race at The Warc. The defeated contestant brought the matter unsuccessfully into Court on April 1st, 1698 (see this Magazine II, 296-298). Thomas Jefferson married in 1698, Mary daughter of Major Peter Feild or Field, and his wife Judith, widow of Henry Randolph and daughter of Henry Soane, who was Speaker of the House of Burgesses in 1660-61. The following is a copy of the entry in regard to their marriage license:

An Accot: of Probats Adm con: & Returned to Mr Secty's office Aprill ye 13th. 1698.

Marriages Lycences Granted

October ye 20th.
1697.

Thomas Jefferson with Mary Field.

A copy.

Teste.

Samuel Waddill,
Cik.

1803, Decr. 14th.

A deed from Thos. Jefferson and Mary his wife proves th t she was the daughter of Peter Feild. A copy of this deed follows:

without sending sufficient Reason for their non Attendance at a Council of War held this day at the Court house for drafting the Militia of the Said County according to the directions of an Act of Assembly of this Colony passed on the first day of May in this present year And such able Bodied Single men when taken you shall deliver to some Constable of this County with your Warrant to convey them & every of them from Constable to Constable until they be delivered unto Maj'r David Lewis

THIS INDENTURE made the first day of March in ye Seventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Anne by ye Grace of God of Great Brittain France & Ireland Defender of the faith and in ye year of our Lord God 1708, Between THOMAS JEFFERSON and MARY his wife of ye County & parish of Henrico the Daughter of Majr. Peter Field Late of the County of New Kent & Parish of St. Peters Dec'd of ye one part, and ABRA: BURTON of ye County of Hen'co: & Parish of Bristoll of ye other part, WITNESSETH, That the sd Thomas & Mary his wife for and in consideration of Ten thousand pounds of Good Merchantable Tobacco in Cask to them in hand paid by ye aforesd Abra: Burton the Receipt whereof They ye sd Thomas & Mary do hereby acknowledge and Do acquit & Discharge ye sd Abra: Burton his heirs Exec'rs. & Admrs * * * *: unto ye aforesd Abra: Burton his heirs & assignes for ever all the Right of them ye sd Thomas & Mary in & to two hundred Acres of Land scituate Lying & being in Appomatox in ye County afores'd and Parish of Bristoll and on ye South Side of Swift Creek, the sd Land Decended to her the said Mary as she is one of the Daughters & Coheires of ye aforesaid Major Peter Field, the sd Land being Granted to him ye sd Majr: Peter Field by Pattents bearing date ye one and twentieth day of Octobr: A Do 1687 and ye Nineteenth day of Aprill 1690 and is bounded according to Lease Let to John Burton ye tenth of Jany 1701 beginning at a Cor: holly belonging to ye Land of Capt. Soane, which said Cor: holly stands on Swift Creek at ye mouth of a Deep bottome thence Down the said Creek to a Gut where is ye Divideing Line between ye Land of the said Jeffersons and James Frankling, so So along ye Dividing Line into ye woods to ye out Line & then along ye out Lines to ye Lines of Capt. Soane aforementioned thence along his Lines to ye place began, which thence along his Lines to ye place began, which said Lines shall include ye aforesd. two hundred Acres of Land be it more or less * * * *:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto set our hands & seals the day and year above written.

Signed Seald

Thos's: Jefferson (seald with red wax)

& Delrd: in
the Presence

Mary Jefferson (Seal'd with Red wax)

of us,

Fran's: Epes Jun'r.

Henry Randolph Jun'r:

Henrico County Court March ye first A Do: 1708.

The Subscribed Capt. Thomas Jefferson & Mary his wife (she being first privately Examined According to Law) this day personally appeared in open Court and Voluntarily acknowledged the above mentioned Deed of Sale or Conveyance unto the before Named Abraham Burton his heirs & assignes according to the form & effect of ye same Deed.

Tests James Cocke Cl. Cur.

the Officer appointed to receive the Drafted Militia of this County: Herein fail not at your peril given under my hand at the Court house of the said County this xix day of June in the xxix year of his Majestys Reign Annoq D. MDCCLvi

P. Jefferson

Nicholas Pryor

Joshua Fowler

James Sanders

Richard Troute

James Burdas

MEMORANDUM. That Wee Thomas Jefferson & Mary my wife Do Deliver you Abra: Burton possession and Seizin of this house and of this parcell of Land in the Name of all the Rest contained in this Deed or Indenture, To Hold To You and your heires and assignes forever according to the Tennor form and Effect of this present writeing or Indenture.

Thos. Jefferson (Seale of Red wax)

Francs: Epes Junr:

Henry Randolph Junr

Mary Jefferson (Seale of Red wax)

Henrico County March the First A Do 1708.

Acknowledged in open Court by the subscribed Thos and Mary.

Test James Cocke, Cl. Cur.

The will of Thomas Jefferson the younger, was dated March 15, 1725 and proved in Henrico April 1731. His legatees were son Field, son Peter, under age, daughters Mary and Martha Jefferson and Judith Farrar and sister Judith Winn.

Field Jefferson, the eldest son, removed to the part of Lunenburg Co., which is now Mecklenburg. His will was dated in Lunenburg June 8, 1762, and proved in Mecklenburg June 10, 1765. He gave his wife Mary a gold ring of one guinea value; to son Thomas £10 current annually to be laid out by his other sons to buying Thomas clothes &c., and £15 current to pay for the rights for land taken up in Albemarle; to son Peterfield the plantation testator lived on; to son George the remainder of testators back land &c. &c.; to son John £250 current in case a suit for land by Field Farrar [his nephew¹ is lost; friend John Speed 150 acres; grandchild [godchild] Mary Delaney; Susannah and E'r. Nicholls, and goddaughter Mary Burton gold rings of one guinea value.

Peter Jefferson removed to Goochland County, and was appointed one of the justices in 1731. When Albemarle was formed he was a member of the first county court Jan. 24, 1744. On May 8, 1745 he qualified as colonel of the militia of the county and in 1755 was appointed County Lieutenant. He was a Burgess for Albemarle at the sessions of Aug. 1754, Oct. 1754, May 1755, Aug. 1755, and Oct. 1755. He married in Goochland (marriage bond dated Oct. 3, 1739) Jane, daughter of Isham Randolph, of "Dungeness" in that county. His will was dated July 13, 1757 and proved in Albemarle Oct. 13, 1757, legatees: wife Jane, sons Thomas and Randolph, daughters Jane, Mary, Elizabeth, Martha, Lucy and Ann Scott Jefferson. A list of his books and maps from his inventory was printed in this Magazine X. 391. The will of Mrs. Jane Jefferson was proved in Albemarle Oct. 1778. She makes a bequest to her daughters Ann Scott and Elizabeth, and to all her children without naming them.

2. Roll of Captain Charles Ellis's (3) company, included in the schedule of names of the officers and men, inhabitants of Albemarle County, Va., who were called out into actual Service, as a part of the militia, for the defence and protection of the frontiers of the colony, prior to the September session of the General Assembly, A. D. 1758, in the 32d year of George II.

[Hening's Statutes at Large, Vol. 7, p. 203.]

Captain Charles Ellis
Cornelius Thomas, Lieutenant,
Charles Tuly, Ensign,
John Freeman, Sergeant,
Jacob Brown, Corporal,
Thomas Cotrell, Corporal,

Malcom Allen,	John Burk Lane,
William Becknel,	Mark Lively,
William Bratchy,	John Powell,
John Bryan,	Richard Powell,
Caleb Burton,	Thomas Powell,
Solomon Carter,	Nicholas Pryor,
Stephen Cash,	William Pryor,
Charles Crawford,	James Randel,
David Davis,	Ashcroft Roach,
Isham Davis,	George Adam Salling,
Joshua Fowler,	William Shoemaker,
Henry Fuller,	Jacob Smith,
Henry Guffey,	Edward Spalden,
Benjamin Hensley,	Benjamin Stinnett,
Philip Henson,	Benjamin Stinnett, jun.,
William Henson,	Edward Weir,
John Hix,	James White,

William Williams; total 41

[Roster of Capt. Thos Ellis' (3) Company, presented by Col. T. H. Ellis.]

(3) Captain Charles Ellis who was son of John Ellis, of Peter's Creek, a branch of Tuckahoe Creek, Henrico Co., was born in 1720 married in 1740 Susanna, daughter of Thos. Harding of the same county, and in 1754 removed to Albemarle (now Amherst) County, where he died in 1760. His descendants have been numerous and well-known, and one of them, Col. Thomas H. Ellis was one of the most active and valuable members this Society has ever had. Portraits, books and manuscripts given by him and his brothers Charles and Powhatan Ellis are in our collections.

JOHN ARMISTEAD*(4) TO THOMAS ADAMS.

New Kent Virg'a April 15th 1771

My Most Valuable Friend

The inclosed Invo's far exceeds w't I at first proposed, tho as much contracted as my wants would admit. I trust that your care will prevent imposition from the Tradesmen, & that you will send them early in the Fall Insured.

Remember Sir, that in the detection of that case posed you [probably meaning "imposed upon you"] dont only serve your Friend, but (w't is still, much more desirable) your Country, and in as much as a Though'er [thorough?] inquirie in this matter, must be attended wth trouble, as well as expence I desire you make it an article in my accot & depend that however defective my head that my Heart is disposed to Justice, from w'ch you may expect a grateful acknowledgment of the favours. And now my Fricnd Let me take my leave by observing to you that 'tis more than probable that we may never have another interview on Earth—therefore let us earnestly endeavour to secure a happy Immortality in that Heavenly world where an Exemption from Pain, with every inquietude below, prevails no more [The writer's intention is obvious here, though he does not express it exactly in words.] In order to attain this glorious End.

Pursue (my Fr'd) the sacred dictates of your soul w'ch leads you on to Virtue? let no danger no the incumbering world make faint y'r purpose.

Assisting Angels will conduct your steps Bring you to Bliss & crown your End with peace.

And that this may be your case, in the concluding Scene of life, is the sincere wish of D'r Sir

Your most affectionate F'd

John Armistead

[Addressed] To Thomas Adams Esq. on his way to London.

(4) John Armistead was probably the person of the name who was first state Senator from the New Kent district and whose death is recorded in the St. Peter's Parish Register. "Col. Armistead departed this life May 2, 1779." The references to religion were rather unusual in Colonial letters (outside of intimate family correspondence) which makes the letters of interest on that account.

THOMAS ADAMS*(5) TO T. HILL, LONDON.

[First part of letter missing; but evidently referred only to business.]

I wrote you a short Line last month acquainting you that the Courts throughout the Colony were shut up & that the General Court could not proceed to Business for want of two of our Principal Consel, (to wit) Mr. Pendleton & Mr. Henry, who were then at Philadelphia as Delegates from this Country attending the General Congress, and the other Lawyers out of Respect to them & the Errand they were on refused to come to the Bar (Except the Attorney General) the Court therefore after hearing the Crown Business adjourned 'til April. this letter I find [did] not reach the Ship in Time. I am exceedingly sorry for this drawback on our Busienss we shall be only in April where we were in October and God only knows what is to turn up between this and then ["Surely the Evil Genius of your Nation is chiefly employed in working the Distruction of yourselves and us " —erased] Your News Papers no Doubt before now have communicated to you the Result of our General Congress, you may rest assured that every thing there determined on will be most religiously observed. there are none so Blind among us as not to have their eyes open'd by the Canada Bill the Idea of loosing civil or religious Liberty at one Stroke has raised such an enthusiastick spirit of the Love of both as cannot be extinguished but with Life itself, there is no widdow among us who would not put the sword into the Hand of her only Son to fight the Cause of God and our Country. I was particularly pleased with your Sentiments on the conduct of the Ministry S—t. I shewed it to many Gentlemen of note who all insisted on my Publishing it which I accordingly did, I hope you will not take it amiss. I flatter myself if this Dispute between Britain & the Colonies comes to a speedy & happy Issue the Gentlemen in this Country will in their Orders for Goods in future distinguish between their Friends & Foes. at

(5) That Virginia lawyers refused to appear in the General Court at October term 1774 on account of the absence of Pendleton and Henry has, apparently, not been known.

least I am much mistaken if a busy Chap on Lime—Street does not get a Wrap over the Nuckles. I desire my Comp'ts to Mr. Withers, let him know he shall certainly hear from me as often as necessary. I am with affec't Regards to your whole Family

Y'r mo. ob't Servt
Thos Adams

N. B.—It must be dull Times in England. I wish you would let your Son make us a visit, he should be as welcome to my House as a Son of my own & he certainly might profit by the Jaunt.

[Endorsed] Copy to T. Hill sent by Capn Cash Nov. 1774.

JOHN ALLEN*(6) TO COL. THEODERICK BLAND.

Barracks Sep. 15, 1779

Mr Henley will deliver you the enclos'd which Contains the Buildings and repairs which are absolutely necessary for the reception of provision at this garrison: A Brigade of flour has just arrived and another dayly expected; for further particulars I take the liberty to refer you to Mr. Henley.

and am sir with due respect
your most Obed.

Servant

John Allen
A. C. I.

JOHN ALLEN TO COL. THEODORICK BLAND.

Barracks July 2th 1779

I have just receiv'd an additional quantity of Barreld Beef from below which appeare to me to be much damag'd from the best Accounts I can get it was Curd at Petersburg by Mess.

(6) John Allen was captain and quartermaster. He was still in service in 1781 as is shown by two letters in the *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*. The letters here printed refer to supply for the British prisoners (Burgoyne's army) and guards in Albemarle County. Theodorick Bland commanded the regiment of guards.

Elliott & Davis, and sent by them to Mr Edward Johnson A. C. P., at Manchester & sent by that gentleman in Canoes up James river to a place cald the point of fork, where it was riciv'd in waggons & brough to this place by my orders; I have likewise out of the large quantity of Bacon recib'd from below some unfit for use, I have to request the faviour of you to order what shall be done with the said provision, it is very offensive in the Store; it is now near six months since their was a general Inspection of provision in the store which I now think absolutely necessary and pray your order for the same.

I am sir with due respect

Your mos. Ob^t ser.

John Allen A. C. I.

[Addressed] Theodorick Bland Esqr.

Colo. Commandant

Charlottesville

JOHN ALLEN TO THEODORICK BLAND.

Barracks May 24, 1779

Sir

Yours directed to Mr. Tate and my Self was this moment handed me by your orderly Sergeant; Mr. Tate is now gone in quest of provision; I have at preasant no species of fresh provision nor no kind of vegatbles in my stores as soon as the purchaser suplys me with those articals shall take a pleasure in suplying you regular, but as I have nothing do in the purchasing of any artical hope you will excuse me should you not git suplyed with those Articals you wrote me for, I have very little Animal food at preasant in store owing to Colo Southall Sending three Brigades to this place loaded with Baggage which I positively ordered to return with Bacon

I am sir with due respect

Yours Very Huml.

Servant

John Allen A. C. I.

[Addressed] Theoderick Bland Esqr.

Colo. Commandant

Charlottesville

JOHN ALLEN TO COL. THEODORICK BLAND.

Barracks Oct^r 5—1779

Sir

enclosed is a State of provisions remaining last return rec'd since Issued and remaining in store; as near as is possible the Troops drawing some to the fifth some to the sixth and others to the seventh renders utterly out of my power to make you an accurate return;

There is just arrive a waggon load of meat three other I here are just at hand from Federicksburg, and I suppose four others cannot be far behind, as there was seven sent to that place. I was at Capt. Keys the day I was in Charlottesville he promised to have two waggon loads ready yesterday, but with all the application I can make cant git waggons to fetch it as the hon. Gen. Inform there is none in garrison thus Circumstanced Sir. I am a fraid the troops will shortly sufer unless proper steps are taken Mr Tate has not bin here these seven days. The artical of flour is offered here for Sale almost every day and no person authorized to purchase, that I know of.

The deference in the amount of spirits between this and my last return, was owing to a mistak in a hoghead of Cyder. Col. Taylor had stored with me which was returnd to you for Spirits. I am sir with due respect your most Ob'd Servant

John Allen A. C. I.

The waggons from Fredericksburg has this moment arrive and I have the promise that two shall be dispatch'd to Capt. Keys emediately they are unloaded

J. A.

[Address] Theo. Bland Esq^r.
 Colo. Commandant
 Charlottesville

ROBERT ANDREWS(7) TO JOHN PAGE.

Camp before York Oct'r 15, 1781

My dear Sir

I have just received your Billet, but have neither seen the Governor, Tucker, or Bradford. I do not know what your Queries may be, but I am certain you will be highly pleased with our success yesterday evening.

A little after seven o'clock an attack was made by the French Grenadiers & the American light Infantry on the Enemy's two left Redoubts below the Town. In ten minutes they were both in our Possession without our firing a shot. The enemy blazed away very furiously, not only from these Redoubts but their whole Line. We made about 70 prisoners & it is supposed about 30 were bayoneted. Our loss in killed & wounded was near an hundred. The acquisition of these two Places not only brings us into closer neighbourhood with the enemy, but puts us on a level with them with Respect to Ground. A few days more will, I hope, close the scene; & enable us to look at each other in Triumph from York & Gloucester Points.

I most heartily rejoice with you on a brightening Prospects

& am Your Friend &c

Robert Andrews

Our Marquis commanded the light Infantry and rode to the Redoubt.

[The above is a copy of a letter addressed to John Page Esq of Rosewell, Gloucester Co., afterwards Governor of Virginia. The original was found among his papers.]

(7) Robert Andrews, a native of New Jersey, was a professor at William and Mary College, was private secretary to Governor Nelson, and, together with Bishop Madison, was one of the Virginia Commissioners to define The Va. and Pa. boundary line. He married Elizabeth _____, and had issue: Robert, Elizabeth, Ann who married William Randolph of "Wilton." Catherine married Joseph Wilkerson, and John. John Page, of "Rosewell," afterwards Governor, was probably with the militia surrounding Gloucester Point.

WILLIAM ANDERSON(8) TO THOMAS MASSIE.

Richmond Nov'r 20th 1784

Dear Sir,

The Planter (the ship that brought your chariot) is now at Broadways, and I have given Mr Cocke an order to receive it, where it will be better taken care of, than in this Town; it cost £155.12.7 Sterling, including Freight and all other charges. I shall release the advance, I mentioned to you, into a Commission, which will make it come cheaper than you might expect.

I had sent the order for your goods before I rec'd your letter, but have wrote to countermand this which hope may be in time.

I have nothing to communicate worthy your attention except that the presence of Genl Washington & the Marquis [Lafayette] has kept the City alive for near a week past—Feasting, balls, illuminations & firing of Cannon &c &c has been our Chief employment since the Gen's came to Town.

Be pleased to present my respectful Compl'yts to Mrs Massie & believe your affect. & Mo. Obt. St

W. Anderson

Tobo. 34 to 37 sh.

[Addressed] Major Thomas Massie, Frederick County.

[Endorsed] Capt. Wm. Anderson.

JOHN ALLEN*(9) TO ARCHIBALD STUART.

Frankfort 13th Oct^r 1803D^r Sir,

Since I wrote you I have had a trip to the Mississippi visiting some of our tawny neighbors—that part on the Mississippi Just

(8) Broadways was on the Appomattox. The bill for a chariot for Col. Josiah Parker, of Isle of Wight Co., printed in an early volume of this Magazine, and this bought by Major Thos. Massie, show what handsome vehicles were owned by weathy Virginia planters, even in the hard years following the Revolution. This letter is one of the few notices from local sources of the visit of Washington and Lafayette to Richmond.

(9) The writer was Col. John Allen, born in Rockbridge Co., Va., Dec. 30, 1771, who emigrated to Ky. with his parents. He attained eminence at the bar and in public life and as Colonel of the First Ky. Riflemen, he was killed at the battle of The Raisin, Jan. 22d, 1813. See Green's *Historic Families of Kentucky*, 233-247.

below the mouth of Ohio is yet within the Chickasaw boundary and in point of importance to the western people will be second only to New Orleans itself—I therefore have but little doubt that a purchase will shortly be made of the Indian right of hunting &c. and leave given for the settlement of the place—and now a word of communication to your own ear—if the earth should turn out an anyone suffer it in silence to return from whence it came—

Suppose a capital of \$100,000 to be put in trade so soon as the above purchase shall be made—a house at New Orleans to manage exports and imports—another at the mouth of Ohio (with the aid of its subordinate houses) to manage the trade with the western citizens and the Fur trade with the Indians on the Mississippi—Missouri and other tributary Streams—Suppose your friend to have a considerable share in Organizing this affair and among other things a power of letting in some of his friends and suppose his eye immediately turned upon you—will you write me whether you would like to place money in such a Bank and if so to what extent—so much for that part—your friend also has a considerable share in the ground where the settlement must be made, The town () will be laid off under his direction—he would like to name it Jefferson for your friend of that name but is unwilling to use the name without permission. It would be indelicate for any but a particular friend to make the application—will you as that authorized friend procure me the permission of using it and advise me thereof.

I inclose you two entries of land made on behalf of the State of Virginia—does Virginia still hold an appropriate right or did she by giving up the governmental right relinquish the former—myself and one other (being of opinion that she did not) do contemplate a purchase of those lands I have power to bring you in. If this meets your approbation—Say the affair is to stand thus—You purchase in your own name (This will authorize the trial of the title in the Fed Cur) you, myself and one other each to pay $\frac{1}{3}$ of the purchase money and each hold $\frac{1}{3}$ of the contract.

But this claim will be subject to drawbacks therefore if purchased must be had low———.The State of Kentucky will I suppose claim the most of them. Gen. Clark must have a part for Locating whether $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ will be uncertain—add to this the military claims made under the act of Virginia Assembly see Cha. Va. Code Cha. XIX, ¶8 p. 146.—The quantity I do not yet know but will procure it and let you know—The surveys are not yet made—the begining of those Entries are about 5 miles below the mouth of Ohio—the land is poor but the situation will be in demand—The State of Virginia I suppose will take the valuc of her warrants deducting the quantity she both disposed of to military claims. I think we can safely give it and take chance of the dispute provided you can get time enough to have the arrangement made for geting the money raised—suppose the survey made in the name of Genl Clark for Virginia and by authority of Virginia as to A. P. what can defeat the emanation of a grant from Kentucky and if once issue to A. G. assee. &c. the game is won provided there are no prior grants but more in my next—I am obliged to attend closely to my practice to keep the money account in my favour. Those other things are my hobby horses and are rode hard when I am not on law subjects—the plan is broad and the necessary information difficult to be come at—I have done much and much is yet to be done—I have got out of the habit of taking any time to myself—This accounts for my writing you so seldom this year I know you can and will view it right—I fear Mrs Stuart will think I have been negligent, be my advocate with her—Inclosed you have a letter you will please look over & hand her—Expect letter when I can write it

Y^r friend

J. Allen

The Honble Arch Stuart
Staunton Virginia
Frankfort Ky. 18th Oct.

**LETTERS FROM MRS *(10) LUCY AMBLER TO
MRS SALLY AMBLER**

Botetourt May 16th 1820.

My dear Sally

Mr Ambler was unable to get Mr Meade to come over and papa has desired me to write and let you know of it as he promised you he would. I have been here nearly three weeks. I came with brother Edward as Mr Ambler was too much engaged to come himself. He has just arrived and we are to set off home the day after to morrow. O my dear Sally what a shock it was to hear of my dear mothers death for my friends in Richmond would not let me know how ill she was before the birth

(10) It is a relief sometimes to get away from official documents and to see from familiar family letters how the people lived and what they thought. These letters, from the Massie Papers in our collection have no historic importance. They are simply the letters of one gentle, kindly Virginia lady to another; but incidentally they tell us more of real life than do many historic documents. The letters here given tell, among other things, of the busy life of the mistress of a Virginia plantation, of going to the Springs with plow-horses to the carriage, of quilt making, of a barbecue for "General Marshall," of how the maid Cinthia "took it into her head to get married" and her mistress was too kind to interrupt the honeymoon so only took a little girl to the Springs with her as nurse. They also tell how it took nine days to travel in the family carriage from Fauquier to Botetourt Springs, of the cottages at the Springs, the great drought in 1823, when the poor people of Fauquier and neighboring counties suffered severely for food. The number of turkeys raised in Fauquier, and how twelve or fifteen waggon loads of butter from Ohio brought down the price from two shillings a pound (high for that period) to ninapence, to the disgust of the good housewives of the county who had been looking forward to their butter-money.

All the persons referred to in the letters were of good old Virginia names. Mrs. Ambler was daughter of Charles Johnston, whose capture, when a young man by the Indians was the subject of a well-known "Narrative." Later Mr. Johnston became a member of the firm of Pickett, Pollard and Johnston, of Richmond, long one of the leading business concerns in Virginia, and also owner of the Botetourt Springs. He married first Letitia Pickett, and secondly Elizabeth Steptoe. It was this second wife whose death is mentioned. Lucy Johnston, a daughter of the first marriage, was born in 1800, and died in 1893. She married in 1819, Thomas Marshall Ambler, of "Morven" Fauquier Co. (born 1791, died 1875), a son of Col. John Ambler of Jamestown and Richmond. Thomas and Lucy Ambler had eight children, three of them sons becoming ministers in the P. E. Church.

Mrs. Sally Massie's maiden name was Steptoe, and she married Wm. Massie of Nelson Co. on Oct. 20, 1814. The Massie genealogy (Wm. and Mary Quarterly XV, 128) states that Wm. Massie, married secondly Martha Wyatt on May 9, 1829; but the last of the letters above is dated Dec. 11, 1829.

of my child and after that they hated to shock me so much. When brother Edward arrived I had that day received a letter from Frances mentioning mama's danger and it was my intention to have gone over with him as I expected him daily at that time to see mama as I had no idea but she would live three or four weeks longer. Whenever I look at her dear children the tears come into my eyes to think of their dreadful loss for what a mother she was to them and us. I am sorry that papa is so unwilling to part with his children as it would be so much to their advantage. For poor little Martha I feel more uneasiness than the rest. You know what a temper she has and being left to the servants they will alternately indulge and cross her in her wishes and that is enough to ruin the sweetest temper in the world. Papa talks of getting a housekeeper and if he should succeed in getting one the children will be very apt not to let her govern them. I have tried to prevail on papa to let Martha go home with me, but he thinks it too far off. I wish you Lucy and Frances would try and get him to let her stay with you as much as possible as then he could see her often.

I am very anxious to return by Lynchburg and your house but that will be entirely out of my power as the distance is much greater and besides we have plough horses in the carriage. I hope the next time I come over that I will be able to spend some time with you all as I shall ever feel attached to all my dear mothers relations as they have ever given me the greatest proof of attachment. You were talking a few summers ago of visiting Fauquier and as you generally go some where in the summer I am sure that nothing would give us more pleasure than to see you and Mr Massie. Do my dear Sally try and come over at it is only four days ride indeed you could get to our house the fourth day to dinner. I hope you will write to me soon and direct to Farmville and I shall be punctual in answering your letter.

Remember me to Mr. Massie his Fathers' and brother Toms' family and believe me to be yours affectionately

[Post mark] Big Lick May 17

L. H. A.

[Addressed] Miss Sally T. Massie

care Mr. William Massie

Roses Mills, Nelson, Va.

Morven August 3rd 1822

My dear Sally

I am afraid you will think me very lazy for not answering your letter sooner but I have been very busy since that time and besides I have had company constantly. I have put a bed quilt in frame and you know that must be a tedious job. The quilt was commenced by Mr. Amblers mother and I think I am bound to finish it. Catherine and Elizabeth Ambler are staying with me and they occasionally assist me though not much. Besides this quilt I have another very serious job on hand which is working a spencer for myself which is a good deal for me to do as I do all the sewing for my family. I am obliged to keep Cinthia nursing John as he has no notion of walking yet owing to his laziness for he is sixteen months old and could stand alone three months ago.

Our neighborhood is quite fashionable at present. We have Dr. and Mrs. Alexander from Baltimore Mr. and Mrs. Lewis from below Richmond and Mr. and Mrs. Donthat from that town all in this immediate neighborhood and in a very short time Mr. Amblers father and mother will be up.

The neighbors are going to unite and give a barbacue to General Marshall who is also up from Richmond and I am told they are to have a dance as there will be an abundance of young ladies though I believe beaus are scarce. I hope you have had more rain with you than we have had. We have had so little that the mills have stopped grinding and we are obliged to send over to Frederic county for every dust of meal for our negroes. Mr. Tom Marshall and Mr. A are the only persons in this part of the country who will make any corn. It is melancholy to see the corn which has not filled up at all and not more than half the usual hight. Do you ever hear from Frances Langhorne. I am afraid she is very lazy or has forgotten me one for it has been at least a year or two since I heard from her. I did not understand you when you spoke of Nancy Wright in your last letter as being very dejected for I had never heard of the death of her husband and it has not been more than two or three weeks since I heard of it.

I hardly ever hear from home now. None of the children ever write and you know papas eyes prevent his writing often so I do not hear from them for three months sometimes. I am sure I have beat you this year raising turkeys. I have twenty eight young ones and should have raised more but the hogs broke up two of my turkeys.

Mr. A. joins me in love to you and Mr. Massie and Tom.

Believe me to be yours affectionately,

L. Ambler

[Addressed] Mrs. Sarah T. Massie

Care of Mr. W. Massie

Roses Mills

Nelson Co

Va

[Post mark] Farmville Aug. 10

Norven April 18th 1823

My dear Sally

You plead laziness for your long silence and I plead industry for mine. You do not know how industrious I am I have now three children to work for and it keeps me quite busy. Cinthia sews very well but there is not a girl on the farm that is large enough to nurse except one that is too bad for any purpose and the women all have young children so I cannot make nurses of them. I really begin to despair of ever getting even to my fathers again. In the fall it was so dry that no flour could be ground and with out flour no money to be had which was the only thing that prevented my going then and after december I was afraid to go as my little Betsy Steptoe was born in January. I hope you are better off in your part of the world for money than we are here. Mr. Ambler had a good deal of corn to sell and last summer the drought in this neighborhood was so severe that no person made much corn and I really believe that there is not one rich or poor that does not want to buy. Among the poor people it is distressing indeed. They have no money to buy it with. Mr. Ambler made a resolution not to let it go for anything but cash as he wished to pay a particular debt with

it but he could not hold out more than a week. As he had at least fifty applications and not one had a cent to pay for it. He has now parted with all he has to spare and yet every day there are persons coming in to see if they can get it. There is one man about eight miles off that is now using the corn he made two years ago and has all the corn of last year and the year before untouched but he will part with it on no terms. He says that if he does it may be scarce another year. It may be an unchristian wish but it is my most sincere one that they may break open his corn house as I do not think a person ought to be punished for such an offence in his case as self preservation is the first thing always. One poor man told him he would starve. Starve and welcome was his answer. What makes it so much worse is the adjoining counties it is just as bad and (I have heard that some persons starved to death over the ridge) but cannot vouch for it.

You mentioned in your last letter that William Langhorne was living with grandpapa. I suppose from that that grandmama Calloway is dead. I am sorry to hear of Mr. Pens making out so badly. Poor Lucy. I went to see her just before I was married and she was telling me what a bad bargain he had made in the purchase of the cottage. She thought he had given only twenty three dollars an acre and thought that a bad bargain. What would she have thought of it had she known the real price. What are her two last children boys or girls. Now I consider you a most fortunate person in having but one to plague you. Though not for worlds would I be willing to part with either of mine as I love them all as well as I should one. I suppose though now you have some of Dr. Massies children with you and you may become as much attached to them as if they were your own by keeping them with you. I wish you would prevail on Mr. Massie to bring you over this summer. We would be delighted to see you and I will learn you how to raise turkeys. I believe this part of the world suits them as no person raises less than twenty and commonly sixty and eighty. I have never kept more than five old hens and I raised twenty eight or nine last year. This is a fine county for butter. I calculated last fall on making my fortune selling it but the Ohio

people sent on twelve or fifteen waggonso so that it fell from two shillings which was the price early in the season to sixpence. I received eighteen pence for some and 20 and 18 cents for some and ninepence for the rest. The ninepence butter I sold lately and there was sixty odd pounds all made since the first of February. Was it not a shame to give so little for fresh butter and they cheated me out of ten pounds to make the matter worse.

Mr. A joins me in love to you and Mr. Massie

Yours affectionately

[Addressed] Mrs. Sarah Massie

L. H. A.

care of Mr. W. Massie

Near Roses Mills

Nelson County, Va

[Post mark] Farmville Va. May 3.

Morven October 7th 1823

My dear Sally

You some time ago reproached me for giving as an excuse laziness for not writing oftener when the very last letter you gave the same excuse yourself. I have been intending to write to you for some time past but I have generally waited untill mail day thinking I would write then but sometimes on that day I was interrupted by company and then again I would forget it on the day on which I was to write and so put it off until I have let quite an alarming length of time elapse since I have written, but it is better to write late than never as in that case you would think I had forgotten you but I can assure you that I very often think of you and your brothers and sisters with the warmest affection as I shall never cease to think of you as affectionate relations.

Fanny and Mary write to me much oftener than they used to do. I think Fanny writes a very good letter and if she improves as much as I expect she will write a beautiful one in a few years. Mary writes very short ones so I cannot tell what they will be. I received one from James some time ago and I think it was written better than a great many young men would write. They say that papas neighborhood is very unhealthy

this summer which I am sorry to hear. They are very anxious to think it a healthy place but I know from the number of deaths and illnesses they mention that it must be very sickly. We are healthy in this neighborhood but within twenty miles of us death is making rapid strides. There is scarcely a family in Frederic in which there are not a great many sick. Parson Meade the (gentleman who my father wished to get to preach my funeral mothers sermon) lost two sisters on the same day in his house of the same fever which continues to rage over the ridge with the greatest violence. Eliza Marshall has lost her youngest child about eighteen months. She is very much distressed indeed. My children continue very healthy.

You mention in your letter that papa was talking about raising a subscription for me to go to see him. I thought that he knew Mr. Amblers situation too well to expect him to carry me over while he continued so much in debt. At the time we were married Mr. A owed upwards of seven thousand dollars and he has been endeavoring to pay that off as fast as possible but the times are so dreadful for the farmers that he has gone on very slowly and still owes a very large sum and under such circumstances it would be unreasonable in papa to expect us to go over. I am as anxious as it is possible for any one to see my father brothers and sisters and grandpapa and his children but I do not calculate on going this year at all and next year is too far off for me to be making calculations about going but whenever I have it in my power to go I shall visit you all. It is unnecessary for me to make any apology for writing so bad a hand as I have written to you too often for you not to know that I cannot write more legibly. If you were a stranger I should certainly apologise With my love to Mr. Massie and Thomas I must conclude

Yours very affectionately

L. H. Ambler

excuse mistakes as my child has interrupted me.

[Addressed] Mrs. Sarah T. Massie

care Mr. W. Massie

Roscs Mills, Nelson County, Va.

[Post mark] Farmville Va. Oct. 11.

(TO BE CONTINUED)